REMARKS

Claims 3 and 9 are amended in view of the points raised in paragraphs 2-3 of the office action. The other claims are amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for the terms recited therein, as well as to correct some grammatic and idiomatic inconsistencies.

The main independent claims are rejected as being anticipated based on Lorrain.

The rejection is respectfully traversed because Lorrain does not teach or suggest the claimed filtering technique for an access switching router that features setting the router's address as a source layer2 address for data packets sent via the access switching router in a network from a network connected source device belonging to a virtual local area network to a sought destination device, as claimed.

In operation, if the source device (HostA, HostB) and destination device (HostC, HostD) are in the same layer2 domain, then the router layer2 address is the actual destination address both for the source and destination device, or if the source device and destination device are not in the same layer2 domain but in the same layer3 subnet, then the router layer2 address is the actual destination layer2 address for the source to the destination.

In contrast, Lorrain discloses a technique for providing packets from a source host S to target host T in a subnet via a token ring network N1, a router R and a token ring network N2 in a network configuration shown in Figure 1. In operation, the source host S sends a packet having a packet header to the token ring network N1 with a source layer2 address of SMAC (i.e. source S MAC), a destination layer2 address of RMAC (i.e. router MAC) as

shown in Figure 2. The router R sends an ARP response to the source S via the token ring network N1 having a destination = S, a source = bridge MAC AD. R and a routing information field (RIF) as shown in Figure 3. The source S then sends a 2nd packet having a layer2 header section to the router R via the token ring network N1 with a destination address = TMAC, a source address = SMAC, an RIF R of LAN N2, an IP address of target (TIP) and data and control information, as described in Lorrain, column 7, lines 10-38. As described in Lorrain, column 7, 31-36, for the next hop towards final target through the token ring network N2, destination and source MAC address fields shall be made to include TMAC address and RMAC2 address once router R has determined through its IP routing table that the target T is located on the token ring network N2, which is not on the same interface as the token ring network N1, and R will forward the packet to the target T though the token ring network N2. However, it is respectfully submitted that Lorrain's router R does not set its own router's address as a source layer2 address for data packets being sent to target T, but instead sets the router's address of R2 (see Figure 8) as a source layer2 address for data packets being sent to the target T through the token ring network N2.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Lorrain does not disclose the claimed invention.

The remaining claims depend from the main independent claims, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable for all the aforementioned reasons.

Reconsideration and early allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/18/08

By _____

William J. Barber
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,720
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, Connecticut 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676